

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting member for assisting in the mounting of a tracheostoma cannula within a stoma of a tracheostoma patient comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein of suitable size and shape that engages a channel portion of the tracheostoma cannula in an interference fit so as to present a rearward mounting face adapted in use to lie against skin of the tracheostoma patient in the vicinity of the stoma, wherein material from which the sheet is fabricated comprises tacky gel material at least in the vicinity of the mounting face.

2. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein an inner edge defining the aperture in the mounting member presents a surface of tacky gel material to contact with the cannula in use.

3. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sheet portion comprises a tacky gel layer in a multi-layer sheet.

4. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sheet portion consists essentially of the tacky gel material.

5. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the aperture in the sheet portion of the mounting member is generally circular and shaped and sized to engage the outer circumference of the channel portion of the cannula in the interference fit, and wherein the channel portion is cylindrical.

6. (original): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 5 wherein the mounting member is generally circular, such that the mounting member comprises an annular portion of sheet material.

7. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 wherein the sheet material is 1 to 7 mm thick.

8. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a removable non-tacky protective layer over the mounting face which can readily be removed by a user to expose a tacky surface of the gel to allow the mounting member to be applied.

9. (currently amended): A tracheostoma cannula comprising a central channel portion adapted to be received through a stoma, a forward portion adapted to sit externally of the stoma in use and a mounting portion adapted to sit within a trachea abutting an internal surface of the stoma in use, and comprising a flange portion of increased cross section to a body portion

so as to assist in retaining the cannula within the stoma, and further comprising a mounting comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein so sized and shaped to be retained around the channel portion of the cannula immediately external of the stoma in interference fit, so as to present a mounting face engageable upon an external surface of a tracheal region of a wearer in the vicinity of the stoma in use,

wherein material from which the planar sheet portion is fabricated comprises tacky gel material at least in the vicinity of the mounting face.

10. (previously presented): A method of sealably mounting a tracheostoma cannula mounting comprising a generally planar sheet portion provided with an aperture therein of suitable size and shape that engages a channel portion of a tracheostoma cannula in an interference fit so as to present a rearward mounting face adapted in use to lie against skin of a tracheostoma patient in the vicinity of a stoma, wherein material from which the sheet is fabricated comprises tacky gel material at least in the vicinity of the mounting face, the method comprising: inserting a cannula into the stoma, applying the mounting around the cannula in an interference fit so as to present the rearward mounting face to skin of an external surface of a tracheal region of a wearer in the vicinity of the stoma, and applying pressure to effect a releasable seal between mounting face and skin.

11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 4, further comprising a layer of non-tacky protective material over at least one of edges and faces of the sheet portion, said layer being adapted to perform one of lying externally in use and being removed prior to use.

13. (new): A tracheostoma cannula mounting in accordance with claim 1, wherein the tacky gel material comprises a silicone gel.